



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Senate Committee approves legislation to help MYCF

LANSING – The Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday approved a bill allowing the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility to become a private facility capable of housing a wider range of correctional populations.

“As the cornerstone of Lake County’s economy, the prison must be repurposed so the community can again reap the benefits it once provided,” said Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, in testimony before the Judiciary Committee. “This bill would free up the prison so it could be used for a variety of prisoners instead of restricting it to youths.”

House Bill 5800, introduced by Rep. Goeff Hansen, gives a private vendor the latitude to use the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility for any in-state or out-of-state correctional population, such as county inmates, homeland security detainees or out-state inmates.

“I’m proud to sponsor House Bill 5800 as it is a centerpiece of ongoing efforts to repurpose the facility as well as provide interim financial support for these individuals and business owners who have been displaced or negatively impacted by this closure,” said Hansen, R-Hart. “It is in everyone’s interest to allow for a wider list of opportunities that can get the facility back in use and this legislation accomplishes that goal.”

Under the measure:

- The private vendor may directly contract with any local, state or federal agency;
- The private vendor may enter into an agreement between any local, state or federal agency, including the county sheriff or city, village, township or county where the facility is located. For example, Maine could contract with the Lake County sheriff or Webber Township to house inmates; GEO could then be contracted to provide services.
- Operation and employment/training requirements of the facility shall comply with the American Correctional Association standards;
- Serious incidents would be reported to the Michigan Department of Corrections and local law enforcement agencies;
- MDOC could inspect and review facility operations; and,
- Employees of the private vendor have authority to exercise use of force in the same manner as MDOC employees.

The bill now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

Editors note: A downloadable image of Hansen and McManus testifying on HB 5800 is available online at <http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/McManus/McManus.htm>.